Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1 and 5-6 have been rejected as being obvious over *Yamaguchi et al.* (US 5,321,281) in view of *Burke* (US 5,793,070) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claim 2 has been rejected as being obvious over *Yamaguchi et al.* (US 5,321,281) in view of *Burke* (US 5,793,070) and further in view of *Shekar* (US 5,317,171) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 3 and 4 have been held allowable, if rewritten or amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the *Response to Arguments* on page 4 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that:

> Applicant has added the limitation "providing a PN insulation" to the independent claim 1, and argues that this newly added limitation is not found in the primary reference. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10"' Edition, defines "insulate" as "isolate". This definition reads on the RN junction in the primary

> reference (regions 2 and 3), since merely stating insulation does not necessarily means ***electrical*** insulation.

(Emphasis added).

The rejections and the Examiner's comments have been considered. Consequently, claim 1 has been amended to recite "providing an electrical PN insulation" in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

The inventive concept of the invention of the instant application is to electrically isolate IC components by using a PN insulation formed between a low-doped semiconductor substrate and a low-doped drift zone. As discussed in great detail in the response dated April 21, 2003, *Yamaguchi et al.* do not show a PN insulation between the low-doped semiconductor substrate and the low-doped drift zone. Therefore, the invention as recited in claims 1 and 5-6 of the instant application is believed not to be obvious over *Yamaguchi et al.* in view of *Burke*.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that *Yamaguchi et al.* in view of *Burke* do not suggest the features of claims 1 and 5-6. Claims 1 and 5-6 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and because claims 2-4 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Considering the deficiencies of the primary reference *Yamaguchi et al.*, it is believed not to be necessary at this stage to address the secondary reference *Shekar* applied in the rejection of dependent claim 2 in item 3 on page 2 of the Office action in any greater detail, and whether or not there is sufficient suggestion or motivation with a reasonable expectation of success for modifying or combining the references as required by MPEP § 2143.

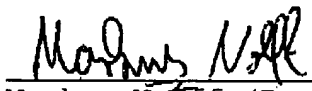
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring ~~extension of the field of search.~~

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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